

Finding Words Georgia

Finding Words: Interviewing Children and Preparing for Court

Application Form

Return Application to: FAX to Sandra Darby 478-757-2666
Office of the Child Advocate
3330 Northside Drive, Suite 202 ,Macon, GA 31210
478-757-2661

Finding Words is limited to 40 participants per session. Please be aware that this is an intensive course. The workshops are supplemented with homework assignments, which must be completed each night, and each participant will be given a written examination at the end of the course. Participants who fail to attend all workshops, to complete homework, or to pass the examination will not be awarded a certificate of course completion. Finding Words Georgia supports a multidisciplinary approach to the investigation of child abuse cases. Therefore, preference will be given to those who apply to attend the training as a team with a minimum of a prosecutor, law enforcement, and child protective services. If your team varies from this norm, please attach to your application an explanation of the unique makeup of your team and why you would benefit from the training. Individual applications will also be considered if slots are available.

Course Dates: *Please Check One*

- ☐ **Week one:** April 11-15, 2005
Application Deadline: February 1, 2005
- ☐ **Week two:** June 13-17, 2005
Application Deadline: April 1, 2005
- ☐ **Week three:** September 26-30, 2005
Application Deadline: July 1, 2005
- ☐ **Week four:** December 5-9, 2005
Application Deadline: October 1, 2005

Please check one: ☐ MDT Member Application (*All team members application should be mailed together)
☐ Individual Application

Name: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____ Office: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Why do you want to attend this course? (attach additional sheets if necessary)

Finding Words Application Form Continued

Have you applied to attend Finding Words before? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Has anyone from your agency attended Finding Words? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Have you attended APRI's Basic Training for Child Abuse Prosecutors and Investigators? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Number of years in Child Protection Field: _____
Experience conducting forensic or therapeutic interviews: _____

Please list other child abuse related training or interviewing programs you have attended: _____

(attach additional sheets if necessary)

Approximate size of jurisdiction: (check one)

☐ Less than 20,000 ☐ 20,001 – 50,000 ☐ 50,001 – 100,000
☐ 100,001 – 250,000 ☐ 250,001 – 500,00 ☐ Over 500,001

Does your jurisdiction have a multidisciplinary team? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes: A) Are you currently a member of the team? _____

B) How long have you been a member? _____

The course was designed by and for the front line child abuse professionals. Finding Words Georgia brings the world of academia into the street. Each student receives extensive homework assignments. The assignments force students to become well versed in pertinent literature regarding linguistics, child development, memory, and suggestibility in children.

Each student watches numerous videotaped child sexual abuse interviews. Applying the knowledge gained from the homework and workshops, students analyze the interviews and discuss whether the interviewer made any errors and, if so, how to defend the interview in court. No videotaped interview of a child abuse victim is shown without the permission of the victim's parents or guardian. As a further safeguard of the victim's privacy each Finding Words Georgia student makes a written pledge to hold in confidence the child's experiences.

In addition to completing homework and attending workshops, Finding Words Georgia students are required to step up to the plate and demonstrate their skills. Each student interviews a child about a non-abuse event, such as a trip to the zoo and then gets critiqued on the use of developmentally, and linguistically appropriate questions.

In the last two days of the course, the 40 students are divided into four groups and given 10 fictitious reports of child sexual abuse. Working as a team, the students chart out a game plan for the interview. Where is the child likely functioning developmentally? What cultural or other barriers may the child have? What is the child's likely attention span? What information is essential to obtain?

Approximately how many children have you interviewed regarding the following types of abuse?

Physical Abuse/ Child Death: _____

Sexual Abuse: _____

Emotional Abuse/ Neglect: _____

Physical Neglect: _____

Do you conduct interviews in a child friendly environment?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, briefly describe: _____

Check which of the following tools you employ during interviews:

☐ Video Tape ☐ Audio Tape
☐ Anatomical Dolls ☐ Anatomical Drawings

What rapport building techniques do you use?

Check which (if any) of these problems you have encountered during interviewing:

☐ Recantation ☐ Unconvincing/Inconsistent Disclosure
☐ Other _____
☐ Delayed Disclosure ☐ Non Supportive, Non Offending Parent